

Surveillance Suit Is Rejected

WASHINGTON, July 17 (UPI) — A Federal appellate court today rejected a challenge brought by 26 church and labor groups to President Reagan's 1981 executive order defining the intelligence collection powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia voted unanimously to uphold a lower court ruling dismissing a challenge led by the United Presbyterian Church and the National Council of Churches. Also joining the suit was Representative Ronald V. Dellums, Democrat of California.

They contested the President's order of Dec. 4, 1981, outlining the intelligence-collecting procedures of executive agencies.

In their suit, the church groups said the orders violated constitutional guarantees of free speech, political belief, freedom of religion and the Constitution's protections against unreasonable search and seizure.

A Federal district judge found the groups had no legal right to sue because they had not been directly injured by the President's action. Mr. Dellums's suit was rejected on other grounds.

The appellate panel upheld that ruling. Writing for the panel, Judge Antonin Scalia said the Constitution required that groups show "some actual or threatened injury" as a result of the defendant's conduct to have the legal right to sue.